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hitherto done of the results achieved in the field of genetic psychology and until a much larger number of well-selected concrete cases have been observed and tabulated, the question as to the relative influence of heredity and environment in producing the criminal will doubtless remain unsettled. In the meantime, therefore, a position definitely based on either view of the matter is manifestly hazardous. If an opinion confessedly subject to correction may be ventured, we are inclined to the belief that Dr. Parsons has greatly underrated the importance of environment. We readily admit that crime is to be explained as the natural result of social and physical causes, and that there are persons who come into the world possessing tendencies which render them especially susceptible to those stimuli which lead to the commission of crime. But this position is not inconsistent with the belief that if organized society replaces such stimuli with more wholesome ones at a sufficiently early stage in the career of the criminal, a reformation can in most cases be accomplished. At all events it would seem to be better to demonstrate that reformation is an impracticable dream before embracing the fatalistic doctrine or adopting the anti-individualistic plan which Dr. Parsons advocates.

J. M. MATHEWS.

*A History of the Irish Parliamentary Party.* By F. HUGH O'DONNELL. (London: Longmans, Green and Company, 1910. 2 volumes. Pp. xiii, 508, and viii, 494.)

These two bulky volumes constitute a merciless arraignment of the Irish Parliamentary Party by one who was closely connected with Irish affairs during the period in question. The writer says in his preface: "From the very first intimately associated with, or advantageously placed to observe, all the most important leaders and leading adherents of the parties and movements between 1870 and 1895 in particular; long resident in the great capitals of Europe and acquainted with their politicians and diplomatists; I had opportunities of exact information, which have never been enjoyed by any previous writer on recent Irish affairs." The author writes "as a Nationalist who maintains the whole of the rights" of his country, but who "equally recognises that Englishmen are patriots."

Mr. O'Donnell is apparently quite out of tune with most of the men who dominated Irish affairs from 1870 to 1890. He finds little comfort

in the "tragic comedy of Irish politics." Mr. Isaac Butt is referred to fondly as "the great and kindly Irishman who founded the Home Rule movement," but Michael Davitt is the "popular incendiary;" Charles Stewart Parnell was "a first class parrot" who lacked the essential elements of a wise and wholesome leader. He undermined and disturbed, but did not construct. The author also speaks disparagingly of the "Gladstone and Parnell Co.," and comments upon the "Parnellisation of Gladstone." Of the latter he says: "The great name of Mr. Gladstone will continue to be indelibly attached to the evolution of the Parliamentary party from Ireland, as it is attached to the rise and culmination of the agrarian revolution itself. Mr. Gladstone is the one English type who reproduced most nearly the characteristic qualities of the Irish agitator. He came from Oxford and not from the Four Courts. He took himself infinitely more seriously than is customary or possible in Ireland. He had the prestige of the highest position to protect him from the fitful vicissitudes of popularity. But he was an agitator, if also hierophant. He was his own prophet, too, and no matter what were his other variations of conviction, he never doubted that he was the true one." (II, 468.)

Mr. O'Donnell frequently expresses his contempt for Patrick Ford and the *Irish World* and deplores the influence of Tammany upon ignorant members of his race in America. He speaks frequently of "the curse of the American dollar," and contends that the influence of American money upon Irish elections and politics has been pernicious. He comments upon an American tour for money collecting as follows: "With regard to the transoceanic department of the financial system of the League, the recent tour of Mr. T. P. O'Conner, following on the tracks of so many preceding tours, is sufficient illustration of this part of the business. There are three requisites for a successful tour of this description in America, which may be summarily stated as follows:—

- "1. A good platform orator.
- "2. Some British institution to annihilate.
- "3. The solemn assurance that Home Rule is in sight, and that the performance is just about to begin."

"I need not say that Mr. T. P. O'Connor is a platform orator of the best: rotund, indignant, persuasive, denunciatory, encouraging. As for the British institution to be destroyed, we know that now it is the House of Lords. Mr. T. P. O'Connor was able to assure American audiences that the House of Lords concentrated in itself the worst venom of the British Empire, that its abolition meant untold benefit to the

world in general and to Ireland in particular, and that every man who had a grudge against the British Empire was consequently bound to annihilate the House of Lords. These engaging themes were illustrated by Mr. O'Connor with a profuse variety of his most characteristic eloquence." (II, 386.)

The work as a whole is controversial rather than impartial, but Mr. O'Donnell presents a strong case. He is a fearless and courageous pleader and a most lucid expositor. His book is interesting and readable from the first line to the last. The style is engaging and incisive and at times is enlivened by a subtle wit. Quotations from speeches, letters, and other documents, scattered throughout the volumes constitute a valuable feature of the work. While Mr. O'Donnell has probably not spoken the final word on the much discussed "Irish Problem," the future historian of this interesting movement will consult his volumes with profit.

T. F. MORAN.

*A Century of Empire.* BY SIR HERBERT MAXWELL. Volume ii, (1833-1868), pp. xiii 364. Octavo. Longmans. 1910.

The first of the three volumes of this work was reviewed in an earlier number of the *Review* and the second volume is now before us. Its characteristics are much the same as the earlier volume. There is the same vivacity of style, the same frank identification of the writer with the conservatives, the same controversy with Sir Spencer Walpole, the same emphasis on political and military features of history, the same reference to contemporary conditions. In the early part of the volume, the Duke of Wellington is the hero still, while Brougham arouses the author's detestation and Russell his dislike. Palmerston is treated generously. Disraeli and Gladstone are mistrusted. The portraits of prominent characters continue to constitute an interesting feature of the book, though one is inclined to ask why a likeness of General John Nicholson is one of the seven shown us. Maxwell is frankly insular in his sources of information. He may occasionally quote a French authority, but never one in any other language and, among his English sources, he goes but seldom to public documents. Good use is made of the Duke of Wellington's papers and of Queen Victoria's letters and the important influence of Prince Albert is fully realized. The development of Australia and New Zealand is overlooked. A good and